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Info:

ACTION: AmEmbassy, TRIPOLI
AmEmbassy, ALGIERS
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STATE

Subject: Press Guidance on Libyan Coup

1. Following press guidance prepared for Department Press Briefing Sept 4 is forwarded FYI. Transcript of actual briefing will follow septel.

A. QUESTION: What is the situation in Libya now? We note a (AP-6) report that troops have entered Benghazi. Is there opposition? Any fighting?

ANSWER: The internal situation is quiet with no evidence of fighting and the curfew has been lifted for several hours during each of the past two days.

B. QUESTION: Is there any evidence of outside support to the military coup in Libya?

ANSWER: None. It appears to be an internal affair.

C. QUESTION: Any thought of evacuation?

ANSWER: No. All Americans appear to be safe and under no threat.

(17)

Drafted by: AF/P:RPeltier:djw 9/4/69 | Tel. Ext. 20362 | Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: AF/P - W. Clinton Powell

Clearances: AF/N - Mr. Suddarth

AF: Mr. Bray

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ACTION: Page 2 of Telegram to TRIPOLI

D. QUESTION: Have we had any more contacts with or assurances from the RCC?

ANSWER: Our Charge has had several contacts with the RCC during the past few days, along with the chiefs of other diplomatic missions. He has been assured of the RCC's desire to protect American lives and property and to respect international agreements. The RCC has been helpful in making arrangements necessary for movement of key diplomatic personnel and for allowing oil companies to maintain normal production.

E. QUESTION: Are the oil ports still closed?

ANSWER: No. The RCC has permitted resumption of oil exports and tankers are now entering the oil ports; others have loaded and departed during the past two days. Civil airports and seaports are still closed however.

F. QUESTION: Has the King sent any envoy here as he did to London?

ANSWER: No.

G. QUESTION: What is the status of the recognition problem today?

ANSWER: That question is being studied and a determination will be made in due course.

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ACTION: Page 3 of Telegram to TRIPOLI

H. QUESTION: Have the Libyan authorities asked us to halt our flights at Wheelus?

SUGGESTED REPLY: We are informed that the American Chargé in Libya was requested to reduce flight activity at Wheelus during this period. However, we had already decided to curtail training flights on our own initiative when the request was made. Meanwhile, as I said yesterday, routine medical and supply flights continue.

I. QUESTION: What is the extent of our normal training activities at Wheelus?

SUGGESTED REPLY: An average of about 55 training flights per day.

J. QUESTION: What is the nature of the training?

SUGGESTED REPLY: Air-to-air and air-to-ground gunnery and ordnance delivery training.

END

RICHARDSON

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